

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1550

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TH

SUBJ: EQUIPPING OF 18 BATTALIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 1543 B) BANGKOK 24731 (DTG 241507Z NOV 75)

1. DURING CHARGE'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN JANUARY 22, PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY ANAND BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF THAILAND'S WISH FOR US ASSISTANCE IN EQUIPPING 16 ARMY AND 2 MARINE BATTALIONS. ANAND RECALLED THAT CHATCHAI HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH CINCPAC, ADMIRAL GAYLER, AND HAD ALSO RAISED IT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON. YET, COMPLAINED ANAND, JUSMAGTHAI APPEARED TO BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE ROYAL THAI ARMED FORCES.

2. THE CHARGE, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH BOTH ADMIRAL GAYLER AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, EXPLAINED THAT THE US HAD MADE NO COMMITMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EQUIPPING OF THE 18 BATTALIONS. US OFFICIALS HAD POINTED OUT THAT WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SHIFT PRIORITIES WITHIN THE EXISTING MAP PROGRAM, NO EXTRA MONEY COULD BE FORTHCOMING. THE ADCM, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, POINTED OUT THAT JUSMAG
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HAD, IN FACT, SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM THE ROYAL THAI ARMY ON

THE SUBJECT, BUT HAD BEEN GIVEN VERY LITTLE ON THE GROUND THAT RTA PLANS WERE STILL AT A VERY EARLY STAGE.

3. THE DISCUSSION ENDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT JUSMAG WOULD BE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER THE ROYAL THAI ARMED FORCES WISHED TO COMMUNICATE ON THE SUBJECT. BOTH CHATCHAI AND ANAND SEEMED TIMPLY THAT THE QUESTION TF FUNDING, INCLUDING POSSIBLE REALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE MAP FUNDS, WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DISCUSSIONS, AT LEAST INITIALLY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE THAI STILL INTEND TO SEEK SPECIAL US FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT. WE AND JUSMAG ARE FIRMLY DISCOURAGING THIS NOTION.
MASTERS

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